AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (*currently amended*) A navigation aid for hierarchical structures having multiple levels of nodes, the navigational aid comprising:

node display means for displaying the nodes in a multilevel hierarchical structure;

icon display means for displaying in the vicinity of the name of each node a conventional expand-and-collapse icon ~~in the vicinity of the name of~~ used to swap the expanded and collapsed states of each node; and

menu display means for displaying a dynamic menu associated with a node displayed in the hierarchical structure when the ~~cursor is hovered over an activator used to swap the expanded/collapsed state of~~ expand-and-collapse icon in the vicinity of the node is selected, wherein the dynamic menu includes:

(a) for any ancestors of the selected node, at least one option to collapse the ancestors,

(b) the selected node, and

(c) at least one option to display the nodes at any level of the hierarchy below the selected node.

2. *(previously presented)* The navigation aid of claim 1, wherein the menu display means includes means for gathering statistics about the current state of the hierarchical structure, and wherein the dynamic menu displayed by the menu display means contains information that is generated dynamically from the statistics.

3. *(previously presented)* The navigation aid of claim 2, wherein the menu display means further includes means for adjusting the information based on the selected node's position within the hierarchical structure.

4. *(previously presented)* The navigation aid of claim 3, wherein the dynamic menu identifies, by one of node name and level number, the path of parent nodes from the root node, when the hierarchical structure is fully collapsed, to the selected node.

5. *(currently amended)* The navigation aid of claim 4, wherein the dynamic menu also identifies in what level of expansion, within the path, the selected node resides.

6. *(currently amended)* The navigation aid of claim 4, wherein the dynamic menu identifies to how many additional levels the path can be expanded.

7. (*previously presented*) The navigation aid of claim 3, wherein the dynamic menu identifies the total number of additional descendant nodes that will be displayed if the hierarchical structure is expanded to a given level.

8. (*previously presented*) The navigation aid of claim 1, further comprising means for updating the display to show the path of the hierarchical structure to be expanded or collapsed to the selected level of expansion.

9. (*currently amended*) A computer program product for navigating hierarchical structures having multiple levels of nodes, the computer program product comprising a computer usable storage medium having computer readable program code embodied in the medium, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code means for displaying the nodes in a multilevel hierarchical structure;

computer readable program code means for displaying ~~a conventional expand/collapse icon~~ in the vicinity of each node's name a conventional expand-and-collapse icon used to swap the expanded and collapsed states of each node; and

computer readable program code means for displaying a dynamic menu associated with a node displayed in the hierarchical structure when the ~~cursor is hovered over an activator used to swap the expanded/collapsed state of~~ expand-and-collapse icon in the vicinity of the node is selected, wherein the dynamic menu includes:

(a) for any ancestors of the selected node, at least one option to collapse the ancestors,

(b) the selected node, and

(c) at least one option to display the nodes at each descendent level of the hierarchy below the selected node.

10. (*previously presented*) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the computer readable program code means for displaying the nodes includes computer readable program code means for gathering statistics about the current state of the hierarchical structure, and wherein the dynamic menu displayed by the computer readable program code means for displaying a dynamic menu contains information that is generated dynamically from the statistics.

11. (*previously presented*) The computer program product of claim 10, wherein the computer readable program code means for displaying a dynamic menu further includes computer readable program code means for adjusting the information based on the selected node's position within the hierarchical structure.

12. (*previously presented*) The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the dynamic menu identifies, by one of node name and level number, the path of parent nodes from the root node, when the hierarchical structure is fully collapsed, to the selected node.

13. *(currently amended)* The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the dynamic menu also identifies in what level of expansion, within the path, the selected node resides.

14. *(currently amended)* The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the dynamic menu identifies to how many additional levels the path can be expanded.

15. *(previously presented)* The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the dynamic menu identifies the total number of additional descendant nodes that will be displayed if the hierarchical structure is expanded to a given level.

16. *(previously presented)* The computer program product of claim 9, further comprising computer readable program code means for updating the display to show the path of the hierarchical structure to be expanded or collapsed to the selected level of expansion.

17. *(new)* The navigation aid of claim 1, wherein the menu display means functions to display a dynamic menu associated with a node displayed in the hierarchical structure when the cursor is hovered over an activator used to swap the expanded-and-collapsed state of the node.

18. (*new*) The computer program product of claim 9, wherein the computer readable program code means for displaying a dynamic menu functions to display a dynamic menu associated with a node displayed in the hierarchical structure when the cursor is hovered over an activator used to swap the expanded-and-collapsed state of the node.